AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraph with the amended paragraphs:

[022] One or more board LC filters 270 disposed on line card 220 may provide an initial stage of voltage filtering prior the voltage being supplied to the transceiver/transponder module 205. However, the initial stage of voltage filtering provided by LC filters 270 may be inadequate to provide the desired control of absolute voltage level and/or noise filtering required to properly operate IC 210. Consequently, in one embodiment of the present invention the transceiver/transponder module 205 includes an additional voltage filter 250 that is disposed within the transceiver/transponder module 205. The voltage filter 250 receives an input module voltage and provides a filtered voltage to power IC 210. The voltage filter 250 may comprise, for example, a passive filter, an active filter, or a low-dropout linear (LDO) filter. The voltage filter 250 is illustrated in FIG. 2 in dashed lines as a component separate from the IC 210. However, it will be understood that an active voltage filter could also be integrated onto a portion of IC the 210 as illustrated by the voltage filter 262 in dashed lines.

[023] The voltage filter 250 or 262 disposed within the transceiver/transponder module 205 causes an additional voltage drop. For example, for a regulated power supply voltage having a nominal industry standard IC voltage level of 1.8 volts, a voltage filter 250 or 262 capable of providing adequate noise filtering for a 10 Gb/s CDR-IC may cause an additional voltage drop of about 5-10%. In this example, the actual voltage coupled to the IC 210 may be reduced by up to 0.2 volts. However, low voltage integrated circuits have tight voltage tolerances in regards to the chip operating voltage, Vdd. This is particularly true for ICs designed to operate at the industry standard IC voltage of 1.8 volts. Consequently, a conventional IC designed for a chip voltage, Vdd, of 1.8 volts may be inoperable if the voltage filter 250 or 262 is sized to provide adequate noise filtering at high data rates.

[024] In one embodiment of the present invention a transceiver/transponder IC 210, such as an eye-opener IC, is designed to operate at a voltage level sufficiently below an industry standard IC voltage to permit a voltage filter 250 or 262 to be include in the transceiver/transponder module 205. For example, a voltage filter 250 or 262, such as a LDO filter, may be designed to receive a host voltage of 1.8 V. If the voltage filter 250 or 262 drops 0.2 V, the IC 210 is designed to operate at a reduced chip voltage, Vdd, of 1.6 volts. The on-chip operating voltage may be selected to account for the voltage drop associated with a passive filter. Conventional circuit design techniques and simulation tools may be used to optimize the IC 210 design at the reduced chip voltage Vdd.